

ROMANCE OF THE NEW CHINESE MINISTER'S LIFE



MISS NELLIE YU-KENG, WHO IS ENGAGED TO SIR LIANG CHEN, NEW CHINESE MINISTER TO THIS COUNTRY.

Sir Liang Chen, Who Is to Succeed Wu Ting-fang at Washington, Figures in a Pretty Love Affair, Just as American Young Men Do, and Soon He Will Wed an Attractive Daughter of the Celestial Empire, Whose Father Is the Chinese Minister to France.



SIR LIANG CHEN TUNG, THE NEW CHINESE MINISTER TO THIS COUNTRY.

TRUDGING merrily toward Washington, with a retinue numbering forty persons and trunks enough to fill a baggage car, Sir Liang Chen, the new Chinese Minister to the United States, will shortly present his credentials to President Roosevelt as the successor to the crafty and accomplished Wu Ting-fang.

Interest in his appointment increases with the announcement that Sir Liang is to marry Miss Nellie Yu-Keng, daughter of the Chinese Minister to France. Miss Yu has lived at the French capital for a number of years, speaks English and French fluently, and is one of the most popular members of the diplomatic set of that city.

Now she is one of the few Chinese women of modern education and modern ideas. Her mother, Lady Yu, wife of the minister in Paris is the daughter of an American, and in Paris with her four children, is well-known in fashionable society as well in the diplomatic set.

Miss Yu's European Education.

The Yu family has always lived in European style, even in far away China, and its younger members were educated according to foreign customs. Minister Yu, it is said, had considerable difficulty in obtaining the Empress Dowager's permission to adopt Western methods in his household on account of the prejudices of his countrymen.

Miss Yu has been described as a Parisienne in all but name. She is decidedly pretty and vivacious, and enters into the spirit of all occasions and is sure to be a welcome addition to the diplomatic set at Washington.

Sir Liang Chen is a descendant of one of the proudest families of the Celestial Empire and is immensely rich. He has jewels that are worth a fortune; also silks of all colors of the rainbow, so fine in texture that they could be drawn through a finger ring. His is the most gorgeous wardrobe of any to be found in the diplomatic service of China. It is a hobby of his to possess rare and costly silks and he indulges it lavishly. Washington eagerly awaits the coming of this titled diplomat of the East, who will be a striking figure in the society of the capital.

Sir Liang's Personality.

Sir Liang has long been a close friend to Wu Ting-fang. His appointment, it is said, was strongly recommended by his predecessor. Interviewed at his home in China recently he said it would be a hard task to equal the splendid work performed for his country by his very dear friend, former Minister Wu, but that he was fond of America and Americans and could think of no greater pleasure than serving his Emperor at this post. He paid a high tribute to the character and life of Wu Ting-fang.

During the unfortunate Boxer outbreak, the most trying situation a Chinese Minister to this country had ever been called upon to handle, he watched the course of his predecessor with pride and assurance and praised his skill and diplomacy with great enthusiasm. And right he was. To equal the record of Wu Ting-fang, which will long be remembered not only in

Washington but throughout the entire country, the new Minister will have to familiarize himself with American methods in short order.

Minister Wu was certainly the most interesting personage who ever came to this country from the Orient. He knew Americans as well as they knew themselves, and had an answer ready for every question that was put to him. Incidentally he could ask a question or two himself.

When callers tried to interview him they were met with counter question which had to be answered, and after going away realized that they themselves had been interviewed and not Minister Wu. He delighted in asking young persons whether they were married, and if not, why not. He thought every one should be married, whether they preferred single blessedness or not. After a big dinner he attended not long ago, where "the cup that cheers" was passed his way with significant frequency, he said, as he was coming away, "They tried to saturate me, didn't they?"

Minister Wu was as accommodating as he was brilliant. He would go to any part of the country to make an address, and what he said was well worth hearing. He was a clear, deep thinker, and his command of the English language was masterful. He talked China and the Chinese to every audience that gathered to hear him, never for a moment losing sight of the welfare of his country. Nevertheless, he also pointed out to Americans their fallacies and idiosyncrasies in such a way their force struck deep and was not soon forgotten.

Wu Ting-fang admitted to his intimates that he was fond of American life and luxuries. He used to order his automobile and go when and where it pleased him. Of American educational institutions he never finished talking. In fact, he thought so much of the schools and colleges here that he left his only son in this country to be educated, that the boy might return to China with American ideas and methods.

Much Expected of Sir Liang.

Sir Liang Chen, his successor, is a diplomat who has been tried and not found wanting. He has traveled extensively, is a linguist and a scholar. He is a younger man than Wu Ting-fang, yet is familiar with international diplomacy, having had experience in the local service as well as abroad, and comes to this country with the determination not only to foster the friendly feeling existing between the two nations, but also to increase the trade relations through channels which have hitherto been overlooked.

With all his interest in costly jewels and fine silks, he is a business man through and through, and is one of the strongest advocates of reform in the Chinese diplomatic service. While at Peking and Canton recently he worked with such energy that he has about succeeded in establishing a system of schools in China after the American method.

Like his predecessor, Sir Liang believes the solution of the Chinese problem lies in education, and, as far as was in his power left no stone un-

turned before leaving his country to bring about a plan for the instruction of the Chinese people. While in the United States he will make a study of our educational system, and will continue to advocate the building of schools in Chinese cities and towns, where the rising generation may be fitted for business careers.

With so many matters of state and nation to demand his time, Sir Liang should be a very busy man when he takes up his abode at the Chinese Legation in Washington. Yet he takes in nearly every social occasion that is on his list, and delights in meeting the diplomats of other countries. The Chinese Minister to this country, by reason of Oriental nationality and gorgeous apparel, is always a conspicuous figure; but, if reports from the far East are to be credited, Sir Liang will be quite the most artistic Mongolian that has come to the United States in recent years.

The Bearer of Messages. He will bring with him special messages from the Emperor and Dowager Empress of China to President Roosevelt, and has said that he looks forward with keen interest to meeting the Chief Executive of this country, of whom he has heard so much. It may be that he will make a tour of the country before settling down permanently to his duties in Washington, as he is very anxious to study American life in all its phases. Several other Ministers followed this plan immediately upon their arrival here, and Sir Liang is in hopes that he will be permitted to do the same.

There has been manifested by the Peking Government recently a strong desire to cement its friendly relations with this country. A few weeks ago, when General Miles visited the Chinese capital, he was given an audience by the Dowager Empress, an honor rarely conferred upon a foreign official.

The arrival home of Wu Ting-fang, it is thought, will also tend to acquaint the Government of Peking with the strides made the past few years by this country; as, having lived here and taken so prominent a part in the social life of the country, he will be in a position to advise his Government intelligently.

Will Find Us Prosperous. Never have the fruits of America's energy and perseverance been so apparent as they are to-day in the big cities of the country. Never has the United States enjoyed such prosperity as within the past few years, and when Sir Liang Chen sets foot on American soil, respondent in his Oriental plumes, he will find that the success of Uncle Sam commercially and as a world power is even greater than the estimation of it in far-off China.

And America will welcome this new representative of the Celestial Empire, as it welcomes every distinguished foreigner who knocks at the door. Uncle Sam will be glad to see him and will tell him to make himself at home. There are many institutions here that would be a boon to China, and he can study them and have all the information he wants. He can go behind the scenes and see everything he wishes. Uncle Sam makes no secret of the key to his prosperity.

There is something secret, however, about a Chinese Minister, which they regard with a great deal of interest—something mysterious and fascinating to the American people. His mode of living, his habits, his apparel and his everything are a source of wonder to the people of this continent. Sir Liang Chen will be no exception to the rule.

Postal Cards for Dinner.

Hostesses on the alert for dinner novelties will be interested in the scheme of a woman who recently gave a dinner at which postal cards were used as dinner cards. The cards represented many cities and countries, and were beautifully illustrated with views of public buildings, bits of scenery, pretty women and children and scenes characteristic of the places in which they were laid.

The cards were laid at each plate, with the address side, bearing the name of the guest for whom it was intended, uppermost. On turning it over the guest beheld some feature of the country or city from which he or his ancestors had come, or something illustrative of his individual tastes, occupation or fads.

The hostess, who is of Dutch blood, had a view from that country, with a windmill in the background. A Frenchman had one with a view of the Champs Elysees, and an Irishman's postal had its jaunty car and driver. A pretty Canadian girl had a postal card from Canada with soldiers led by a girl, and the motto, "Where's the coward that would not dare to fight for such a queen?" A Southerner had a cakewalk, and an elderly Southern lady's card had a colored mammy, underneath which had been written by the hostess, "Remember old times."

A musician had a card ornamented with a figure bearing a lyre. An artist had a painter with a palette on her card, and the one intended for a singer bore the portrait of a famous prima donna.

The cards are inexpensive and can be varied almost indefinitely to meet special occasions and to take off the fads and peculiarities of the guests.



FORMER MINISTER WU TING FANG.

AUTHOR NOW A PUBLISHER.

Robert Barr, the author, formerly of Detroit, has purchased the London Idler, and in advertising the fact, says:

"I have bought the Idler, and I hope everyone else in England will do the same. It will cost you a simple sixpence; I paid a great deal more."

"I have no prejudice against a great name, indeed, if I wished to flaunt a resplendent reputation on the pages of the Idler, all I should have to do

would be to write the whole magazine myself. But I am a cautious editor. When formerly connected with this magazine I was under the painful necessity of rejecting three of my own essays in fiction. They were not up to the mark. R. B. the author cannot delude R. B. the editor. At present I am using his literary talents for the writing of my circulars, and if he shows capacity I may print one of his articles in the magazine."



WU CHAE CHU, SON OF FORMER MINISTER WU TING FANG, WHO IS BEING EDUCATED IN THIS COUNTRY.

STORY OF SENATOR DOLLIVER.

Senator Dolliver, of Iowa, tells this story at his own expense, as illustrating the pitfalls that beset a man of modest means at the national capital:

"On one occasion I was invited to attend a social function given by a high official. I went and had a delightful time, concluding that Washington social life was not a thing to be in the least afraid of. This conclusion was reached, by the way, just as I was taking leave of the host. A liveried servant approached me and asked if my carriage was in

waiting, and whether it was a single or double conveyance. Out of considering the pitfalls that beset a man of modest means at the national capital: "On one occasion I was invited to attend a social function given by a high official. I went and had a delightful time, concluding that Washington social life was not a thing to be in the least afraid of. This conclusion was reached, by the way, just as I was taking leave of the host. A liveried servant approached me and asked if my carriage was in

Senator Dolliver's one-horse hack! Senator Dolliver's one-horse hack!"

"The man then came back to me, and, with his head high in the air, announced: "Your hack's waitin', Senator Dolliver."